

PROCEEDINGS OF THE DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TAKEN AT A
REGULAR MEETING ON THURSDAY, JULY 2, 2020.

Those present: Miles Matt, Lisa Thomas, Mike Delcambre, and Ross Fontenot

Those attending via Zoom Teleconference: Gus Rezende

Those absent: Jim Keaty and Greg Walls

DDA Staff present: Anita Begnaud, Rachel Holland, Hunter Hebert, and Amy Trahan

DLU Staff present: Maureen Dugas Foster

Others present: Brad Robin, Corey Jack, Burton Kolder, and Sam Oliver

Others present via Zoom Teleconference: Carlee Alm-Labar and Glenn Lazard

The meeting was called to order by Matt.

Public comment process is attached to the end of the agenda for individuals wishing to address the Board on agenda items. Request to speak must be submitted prior to discussion of the item. Individuals are allowed three minutes for comments.

Administrative Approvals/Reports

June Minutes - The June Minutes were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor.

May 2020 Financials - The May 2020 Financials were presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Thomas seconded, all voted in favor.

Agenda - July Meeting Agenda was presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to attach the July Meeting Agenda to the minutes as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor.

2019 Financial Audit

Kolder noted that the organization is very financially healthy with fund balances representing 23 to 24 months of operating expenses. Kolder noted the ad-valorem taxes are up by 3% from 2018. Kolder further noted that personnel costs were higher in 2019 from 2018 due to the retirement payouts for Jolene Harris. Kolder noted that the fund balance from 2019 was reduced by 39,000 from the 2018.

2019 Financial Audit - The 2019 Financial audit was presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor.

Budget Adjustment

Trahan noted that a budget adjustment of \$1,500 was needed from Training of Personnel to Supplies and Materials to cover costs associated with purchase of office furniture due to hiring of new personnel. Trahan further noted that due to travel restrictions and social distancing in

response to COVID-19, a surplus of funds in Training of Personnel will be used to cover these costs.

\$1,500 Budget Adjustment – \$1,500 Budget Adjustment from Training of Personnel to Supplies and Materials was presented for approval. Fontenot motioned to approve as presented, Delcambre seconded, all voted in favor.

CEO Update

Nightlife Safety - Begnaud noted that the staff has been working with the Mayor-President, Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Fire Marshal, Sheriff, Chairman Pat Lewis, Councilman Glenn Lazard, and various nightlife stakeholders to address unintended consequences created by COVID-19 regulations.

State Historic Tax Credit Extension - Begnaud noted that the state HTC extension was adopted by both chambers. Begnaud noted the extension is until January 1, 2026 with a front-end cap of \$125 million.

Federal Historic District - Begnaud noted that the National Register review committee approved the Downtown District in mid-June. Begnaud noted that they National Parks service is now reviewing with anticipated approval by the end of the summer. Begnaud noted that DDA plans to host a lunch and learn for all property owners with contributing properties later in the year.

Buchanan Parking Garage - Begnaud noted that a change order was sent for final approval to open the bottom floor of the garage for parking which will include 46 permitted parking spots. Begnaud noted that some work will be needed to the structure before opening. Begnaud noted the timeframe on the step to be 3 weeks. Begnaud noted that the next steps for the garage include discussions on how to fund larger scale improvements to re-open the entire garage.

Drainage - Begnaud noted that progress has been made following meetings last month with DDA, LCG drainage department, business owner, and property owner to discuss drainage issues at Convent and Jefferson Street. Begnaud noted that the drainage department is requesting a utility discovery to include in the survey of the area to see what options exist to make some improvements are this intersection.

Cypress Street Overlay - Begnaud noted the Cypress Street overlay is currently in progress to be completed within a week. Begnaud noted that includes re-striping down to two lanes and will incorporated parallel parking spots. Begnaud noted that she is still in discussions with Public Works and LPTFA about sidewalk improvements.

Reports/Updates

Operations - Hebert noted LCG has added downtown properties to the Geaux Mow program which has allowed downtown maintenance worker to focus on pressing issues downtown. Hebert noted that LCG has reinstated Sunday morning cleanup in the Downtown District with street sweepers and litter crews. Hebert further noted that continued work on public space improvements to include a newly finished mural in Parc de Lafayette and two new native planter beds on Garfield Street.

Development - Holland noted that she is reviewing the Downtown Accessibility Project. Holland noted that they are 95% complete on plans which means they are in the process of obtaining right

of ways. Holland noted that Parc Maintenance RFP will be released shortly. Holland noted that the RFP is now being framed as a business plan for the parcs. Holland also noted that she is working on a prototype for an outdoor/sidewalk dining initiative. Holland noted that she has continued to meet with people interested in opening businesses downtown. Holland noted that she is working on cataloging available space.

Councilman - Councilman Lazard noted the need to clarify with the Mayor-President his recommendation of the removal of the Alfred Mouton statue. Lazard also noted that any action with the statue is dependent on the court lifting the injunction at the hearing on August 17, 2020. Lazard noted that if the injunction is lifted the Lafayette City Council will need to pass an ordinance to remove that statue. Lazard also noted concern with the Old Federal Courthouse Project moving to 100% residential. Lazard noted that he is opposed to converting the project from mixed use to all residential. Lazard requested that DDA state their position on the changes with the Old Federal Courthouse Project. Lazard noted that he is requesting an update at the next Council Meeting.

LPD Downtown Security - Robin noted following the move into COVID-19 Phase II bars opened at 25% capacity and restaurants opened dining at 50% capacity. Robin noted that this created challenges downtown as 100% of the normal bar and restaurant customers came downtown. Robin noted that this created issues with traffic and sidewalk capacity. Robin noted that LPD increased patrols and worked with the Sheriff to add additional security downtown during these peak times on Friday and Saturday nights. Robin noted that LPD also deployed barricades to strategic areas to reduce loitering on streets and in parking lots.

Other Business

Thomas advised that DDA should be engaged and involved with the property where the Alfred Mouton statue is located if and once the statue is moved from that location. Rezende recommended that DDA leadership play a role in planning what should happen with this space once the statue is relocated. Discussions continued.

There was no further business and the meeting was adjourned.